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Recommended Citation

Kilstein, Bonnie, "Bonnie Kilstein to Meredith (26 September 1962)" (1962). *Correspondence: Pro-integration*. 238.
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26 September 1962

Dear Meredith -

With all the commentary on the constitutional crisis facing our nation, there has been little mention of the severe test you must be personally enduring.

I am sure that I speak for many silent voices of respect and admiration for your courage. Your single battle to desegregate the University of Mississippi may seem like a lonely one, but it is a part of the united struggle for the freedom of all men, black and white. We look to you, Meredith, as a standard bearer in that fight.

It is difficult to sit back comfortably in Graduate School in the North while you and other students whom I love dearly suffer daily the indignities incurred in a segregated society. Although life here is not pure nor flawless in the realm of civil rights, the problems are not as compelling as in the South today. When I receive my degree, I hope to organize programs of citizenship education for youth, in order that the new generation will not repeat these same tragic divisive situations, but seek, instead, a common-

Answered 11/20/62 ✓
ity of all persons, regardless of race, nationality or creed. This
is what keeps me here, though I would long to assist you.

I do hope, that while you have every necessary legal as-
sistance, you will also be given any personal aid you might
call for. Your welfare is prayed for daily throughout the
nation. If, when you are registered, you have a need for
books, funds or just a correspondent, please do not
hesitate to write me. Although my personal resources
are limited, you must know there are more than five
thousand young people who have committed themselves
to the civil rights struggle by putting their bodies on the
line and going to jail if necessary.

Remember, Meredith, both the ideal and the reality,
we shall overcome, someday and today. Go well
my friend.

Yours Faithfully for freedom,
Bonnie Kilsken

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